



JANUARY 2011

...North East Autism Building Completed

Following our appointment by The North East Autism Society in Spring 2010 we are delighted to complete the project on time and on budget. The project followed an extremely tight time scale which saw a detailed planning application submitted within four weeks of our appointment, extensive consultations with the local authorities minimising the need for planning conditions, negotiations with a number of potential contractors followed by the appointment of Mansell Construction who completed the build within five months.



JANUARY 2011

...Citizens Advice Bureau in for planning

Scheme Design has been completed for proposals to extend the new Citizens Advice Bureau on Swan Street in Gateshead. The proposals see an additional four floors comprising of 16,000sqft added to the existing two storeys. A transitional indented layer defines the new development and breaks the scale and massing of the overall block. Detailed Planning permission is anticipated in March 2011.



JANUARY 2011

...Students return from Uganda

GRADONARCHITECTURE sponsored students from Newcastle University return from their expedition to a remote Ugandan village to build a childrens village. Known as The Wider Mbarara project, the aim is to construct a childrens village for orphans and help the community which is massively affected by HIV and is home to thousands of orphans. GRADONARCHITECTURE will continue to support the project with further design development, financial assistance for future trips and ongoing fundraising.



JANUARY 2011

...NE40 nears completion

Since securing detailed planning permission for the conversion of a former church and hall in Ryton in October 2010, GRADONARCHITECTURE have had a team on site through the cold winter months overseeing the sensitive project works and evolution of NE40 STUDIOS. Completion is drawing nearer and despite extreme weather conditions, the project is set to be completed by the end of February 2011..



FEBRUARY 2011

...Old Hall House starts on site

Work commences on the internal strip out of the existing church hall in readiness for the conversion into a private residential dwelling. Having gained planning approval in October 2010, the proposals see the retention of the existing stone walls and timber roof trusses and the introduction of a new internal steel framed structure to the open plan space which will provide two upper floors of accommodation. The intervention will be modern and contemporary, respecting the existing form and celebrating it through careful use of double height spaces and roof lighting.



MARCH 2011

...Citizens Advice Bureau planning approval

Following submission of a detailed planning application in January 2011 for an additional four floors of accommodation comprising of 16,000sqft, planning permission is granted for the proposals. The scheme will now progress through detailed design while further funding is sought.



APRIL 2011

...Things are changing in the Ouseburn

Following release of the final stage competition brief by 1NG, as part of the Yuill Centreland consortium, design commences in response to the brief. The proposals will see the redevelopment of the former Ice Factory site on East Bank, Malmo Quay, Lower Steenburgs, Maling Street and Spillers Quay. Submissions are due for return in April 2011.



APRIL 2011

...Excellence award finalist 2011

Working with Gateshead Council, The Gateshead Housing Company and Local Environmental Services, GRADONARCHITECTURE receive recognition for high standards in The LABC Building Excellence Awards 2011 for Social Housing.

Best Social or Affordable Housing Development
awarded to
Gradon Architecture
Gateshead Council
The Gateshead Housing Company
for the recognition of high standards of construction
and workmanship

Hallgarth Road,
Winlaton



APRIL 2011

...NE40 Studios Completed

Having designed and managed the construction process of the conversion of a locally listed church in Ryton into flexible office / studio accommodation, GRADON ARCHITECTURE move into the completed studios. The accommodation will provide the team with plenty of space for creativity and sustained growth.



MAY 2011

...Another Royal Wedding

Not to be out done by the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, congratulations from all of the GRADON ARCHITECTURE Team to our Sophie who married James on 1 May 2011.

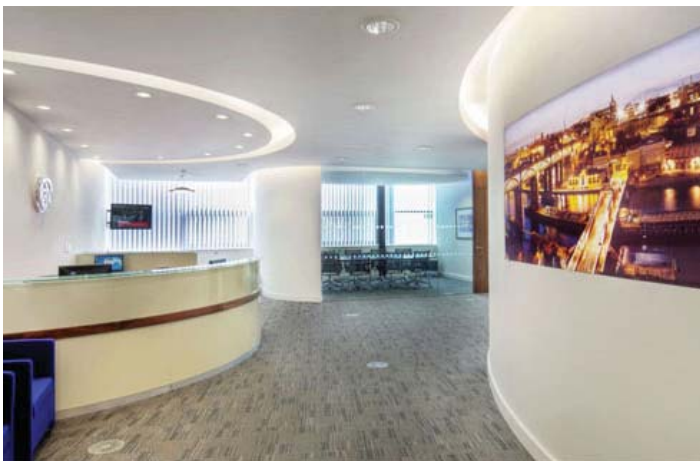
Sophie now becomes Mrs Sophie Dias!



MAY 2011

...Students prepare to return to Uganda

Following the success of phase one of the Mhabara Uganda project in the Summer of 2010, a new team of students from Newcastle University assemble for a design workshop at NE40 Studios. GRADON ARCHITECTURE will once again support the project which sees a team of students return to Mhabara in Uganda to commence construction of dining and washroom facilities. Last year saw the completion of the main House of Love orphanage. This year, the students will again finance their own trip and have so far raised in excess £15,000. This year the design is modulated into pre-fabricated units which embrace local building methods and will assist in establishing the cost of subsequent phases of development.



JUNE 2011

...GVA Fit Out Completed

Having worked closely with the Newcastle GVA team over the past six months, the GRADON ARCHITECTURE designed workplace for GVA at Central Square One is completed. Located on the fourth floor, the fit-out comprises of circa 8,000sqft and combines open plan team workspace with welfare and conferencing suites which take advantage of panoramic views across the Tyne and the City. Taking four months to construct, the final design takes you on a journey from the central atrium building through the reception, via an organic curved circulation route, revealing differing spaces within while always referencing back to the City beyond.



JUNE 2011

...New additions to the team

Daniel Dyer and Anzelika Ivanova join the GRADONARCHITECTURE team. Daniel and Anzelika, architecture students from Newcastle and Northumbria Universities respectively, bring yet further experience and dynamism to the team. Together they will be working on a number of projects including bespoke private residential, a student residential project in Newcastle and a 10,000sqm commercial project in Western Asia. The pair will also lead our submission of an International Design Competition organised by National Geographic.



JUNE 2011

...Buying Art

We have decided to showcase the work of MJ Forster as we think his work is pretty great. He is a painter of contemporary British landscapes, living and working in Northumberland, England. All his original paintings are in pure watercolour and a selection of his best works are available as prints. To see his work visit his website www.mjforster.com or his gallery on St. Mary's Chare in Hexham.



JULY 2011

...Tree Houses in Paradise

Architecture is not all about buildings...it's about people! Architecture responds to people's needs and its simplest form, mans need for basic forms of shelter. Some of the team have a little fun designing a simple form of shelter with beach huts and tubes suspended from lofty palm trees on a paradise beach. Our in-house design flutter gets us all thinking at a simple level, provides a bit of fun and lively discussion but most importantly gets us all thinking in a different way about our current projects in hand.



AUGUST 2011

...Code 4 homes completed at Norfolk

Working with Gateshead Council and Local Environmental Services, Norfolk Avenue is completed on site. Constructed in timber frame and dressed in brickwork, render and timber cladding, each dwelling provides accessible accommodation and utilises a number of green and renewable technologies under The Code for Sustainable Homes initiatives.



AUGUST 2011

...Bringing the new to Old Hall

Following five months on site, the internal forms of the private residential dwelling start to take shape. Project Managing the whole development on a day to day basis, GRADONARCHITECTURE have at times got their own hands dirty, designing and working with the tradesmen on site. This hands on approach is integral to the ethos of the practice. Following the retention of the former stone built Church Hall, the large volume of internal space has seen the installation of an independent steel frame which provides two upper floors of accommodation. The ground floor will enjoy open plan living and a grand full height hall over the dining area which will be bounded by steel and glass balustrades and the retained arched lancet window.

AUGUST 2011

...More affordable living on the way

Three separate developments progress on site throughout Gateshead providing a mix of accessible, bungalow and family dwellings. Each is designed to Code for Sustainable Homes standards, Lifetime Homes and Secure by Design standards. The sites at Portobello, Cranesville and Cresthaven each present site specific issues which are addressed in the GRADONARCHITECTURE design – these include the integration within the existing urban fabrics, the careful retention of mature trees and exploitation of existing site topographies.



SEPTEMBER 2011

...Crooked

Having completed all of the necessary due diligence and designer risk assessments, Graham suffers the indignity of falling off a ladder rupturing his groin ligaments effectively ending his sporting and charity events for the year. Plans for this years Great North Run, Kielder Marathon and The Buccleuch Challenge all have to be abandoned. Next Year! In the interim the recovery period proves to be a useful rest bite to take stock and strengthen...THINGRSCHANGING...



SEPTEMBER 2011

...Lone Rider for Buccleuch Challenge

You've got to be in it to win it and it's not about the winning but the taking part! This was taken to the extreme in this year's Buccleuch Challenge as Stu ploughed a lone but very resilient figure, successfully navigating the mountainous 50km terrain to finish an admirable third in his class, however due to his injured team mates non participation, was penalised placing him last. Graham and Chris recovering from their respective injuries, were only able to give moral support at the various vantage points en-route and of course in the bar! Well done to The Dukes of Hazard aka Buccleuch who were comfortable winners and perhaps a little familiar with the course?





www.widermbararaproject.btck.co.uk

OCTOBER 2011

...Mhabara project enters it's third year

Following two successful years working with students from Newcastle University, GRADONARCHITECTURE continue with their commitment to the project. Interviews have been completed and candidates selected for The Summer 2012 Project Expedition to Mhabara in Uganda. The main orphanage has now been completed and the following months will see a number of design workshops at Ne40 Studios and fund raising events undertaken with the students to plan and raise money for the construction of the proposed dormitory blocks. Kind donations can be made via the website or through GRADONARCHITECTURE.



OCTOBER 2011

...Back to University for Graham

Design Director Graham McDarby commences another year of Professional Practice lectures for the fifth years at Newcastle University School of Architecture. Widely recognised as not the most stimulating of lecture modules within the RIBA Part 2 course, the fundamentals of Professional Practice are an essential tool required to deliver exciting innovative architecture. The students represent the talent and future of our industry and by sharing real life experiences of how to design, cost, manage and build their ideas hopefully instils knowledge and encourages them to stick with Architecture in these difficult times.



NOVEMBER 2011

...Mixed use development in for planning

Following extensive consultations with Stockton Borough Council revised plans are submitted for planning permission to transform the former site of Springs Health Club on Teesside Park. The proposals will transform the former health club site into a 66 bedroom Travelodge, a Nandos restaurant as well as a Mitchells and Butlers pub style eaterie. The redevelopment will not only see a £7.5million of private money being invested into the site but will also see the creation of 64 full time roles across all three outlets. Subject to planning permission, works are anticipated to commence in early 2012, with the project earmarked for completion by Autumn 2012.



NOVEMBER 2011

...Proposals completed for Kazakhstan office

Stage D proposals are completed for the development of an 80,000sqft commercial regional headquarters in Kazakhstan. The development represents the first of a number of planned commercial and mixed use schemes in the region. Comprising of six floors and basement parking the building form emerges as two wings located about a central core offering flexible open plan spaces with meeting and conferencing suites. The form responds to the site and takes advantage of long ranging views of snow capped mountains.



DECEMBER 2011

...Merry Christmas

From all of the Team we wish you the very best of health, happiness and success for Christmas and 2012.